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## **PRESIDENT OBIANG OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA ADDRESSES UNESCO CONTROVERSY**

**MALABO** (June 7, 2010) – The President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo released comments today regarding the controversy surrounding the “UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Price for Research in the Life Sciences” to be awarded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) later this month. The prize is intended to promote scientific development and achievements that “improve the quality of human life.”

“The opposition to this prize is not because the award is not positive, it’s simply because the international community does not want to advocate on behalf of ‘President Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea’. But they have no reason to oppose the prize. We created the award with the goal of preserving human life. We have allocated significant funding for this prize in order for scientists to conduct studies and so they have the resources they need to find cures—for the health and well-being of people everywhere, including in Equatorial Guinea. The Government of Equatorial Guinea understands that it is far from perfect and that it still has a great deal of work to do to further improve the lives of its people. The UNESCO prize is a part of that work.”

A video of some of President Obiang’s comments.

Equatorial Guinea, which up until the late 1990s, was one of the poorest nations in Africa, is currently investing the wealth derived from its recently-discovered natural resources in its infrastructure and citizenry. This effort includes development projects in health and education, as well as an emphasis on promoting agriculture and tourism as a way to diversify the country’s economy. The government is also currently working to update out-dated statistical information about the country and its quality of life indicators.

### ***About Equatorial Guinea***

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) is the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, and one of the smallest nations on the continent. In the late-1990s, American companies helped discover the country’s oil and natural gas resources, which only within the last five years began contributing to the global energy supply. Equatorial Guinea is now working to serve as a pillar of stability and security in its region of West Central Africa. The country will host the 2011 Summit of the African Union. For more information, visit <http://www.guineaequatorialpress.com>.

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## **EQUATORIAL GUINEA ENHANCING PUBLIC HEALTH WITH INVESTMENTS IN NEW SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM**

**MALABO** (June 8, 2010) -- As a part of a multi-year program to upgrade and enhance the infrastructure of the country, the government of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) is targeting completion of a new network system for sewage and wastewater treatment and rainwater in the city of Malabo. The two-year project commenced in August 2008.

"This new system will provide the people of Malabo with improved sanitary and safety conditions," said Jeronimo Osa Osa Ecoro, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism. "The government of Equatorial Guinea is committed to investing in the betterment of the country as a whole, and this project is just one of many that are ongoing."

The Ministry of Public Works and Infrastructure is overseeing the project, with the Directorate General of Public Works responsible for its completion. Drinking water projects are underway across Equatorial Guinea. In different localities, such as Bata and Mongomo, the government has also undertaken the construction of water treatment plants that will provide potable running water to the population. The government has partnered with international companies such as Hyundai for these large-scale infrastructure projects.

The project will serve Malabo's more than 100,000 residents, roughly one-sixth of the country's population. Equatorial Guinea continues to make investments in the country through use of funds related to its natural resources. For example, the government has placed a priority on developing the agriculture and tourism sectors to diversify the economy and create jobs for its citizens. This is intended to open the country to increased foreign investment and interest.

Other ministries, such as the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, are also completing and commencing development projects in their respective sectors.

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## **EQUATORIAL GUINEA AWARDS MARITIME SECURITY CONTRACT TO U.S.-BASED MPRI**

### *Equatorial Guinea Investing in Anti-Piracy Measures to Promote Regional Security*

**MALABO** (June 7, 2010) – A \$250 million contract has been awarded to U.S.-based private security firm Military Professional Resources Initiative (MPRI), an L-3 Communications (NYSE: LLL) company, by the Government of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) to protect the country's vast aquatic resources, according to Vanguard. The contract will establish a network of surveillance sites and operation centers at different points along the country's coast to protect against piracy and other maritime concerns that exist in the region.

The Government of Equatorial Guinea recognizes the strategic importance of promoting safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea region—for stakeholders, multinational oil and gas companies, and surrounding oil producing nations. Over the last two years, 12 attacks have occurred off the coast of West and Central Africa, resulting in abductions, loss of life, and a surmounting threat to the peace and stability of the Gulf of Guinea nations. Attacks in the Gulf of Guinea are not on the scale of those in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean, but the region is becoming increasingly important because of its energy reserves.

Equatorial Guinea has a number of partnerships with American businesses, and it has a long-standing relationship with MPRI, which they previously contracted to conduct extensive best practice training with the country's police and security forces.

The current contract with MPRI is part of Equatorial Guinea's Maritime Security Enhancement Program and is designed to provide nationwide coastal surveillance coverage and long-term stability for the entire region. It is a part of Equatorial Guinea's commitment to contributing the positive development of its part of West Africa.

MPRI is set to operate the site for three years, followed by another two years of sustenance and maintenance support.

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